

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 DHA-02 CU-04 /107 W

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R 271530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5003

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 1277

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3302

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: SOWETO AFTERMATH: SCATTERED INCIDENTS

OF ARSON

REF: PRETORIA 3225

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JULY 22-26 PERIOD WAS MARKED BY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF MINOR ARSON AGAINST SCHOOLS IN TRANSVAAL LOCATIONS OF SOWETO, VENTERSDORP, NELSPRUIT, SPRINGS, BOKSBURG, RANDFONTEIN, SHARPVILLE, KWA THEMA, PLUS ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS IN NATAL AND THE TRANSKEI. IN MOST CASES, DAMAGE CONFINED TO SINGLE CLASSROOM. ONE ALLEGED ARSONIST WAS INJURED BY POLICE FIRE IN SHARPVILLE.

2. INITIAL ATTENDANCE WAS SPARSE FOLLOWING SAG REOPENING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SCHOOLS IN URBAN BLACK AREAS OF TRANSVAAL JULY 22. SAG OFFICIALS

ATTRIBUTED SITUATION TO SHORT NOTICE OF SCHOOL REOPENING AND EXPECTED FULL ATTENDANCE BY MONDAY JULY 26. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. JULY 26 ATTENDANCE IN CAPITAL TOWNSHIPS OF ATTERIDGEVILLE AND MAMELODI WAS "NORMAL". EXCEPT FOR SOWETO, ATTENDANCE IN OTHER TRANSVAAL SCHOOLS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO PRE-JUNE 16 LEVELS.

3. JULY 26 SOWETO SCHOOL DAY MARRED BY THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN STUDENTS WHO REPORTEDLY CAME TO SCHOOL BUT THEN LEFT CLASSES IN EARLY MORNING AND VERBALLY ENGAGED POLICE. ATTENDANCE, AVERAGING 60 P/C, WAS HIGHEST AT PRIMARY LEVEL AND DECREASED SHARPLY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. NO ACTS OF PERSONAL VIOLENCE WERE REPORTED. JULY 26 MEETING OF 400 PRINCIPALS OF SOWETO SCHOOLS UNANIMOUSLY DEMANDED REMOVAL OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF BANTU EDUCATION IN WITWATERSRAND MR. A.C. ACKERMAN AND FOUR SENIOR SCHOOL INSPECTORS. MR. T. DE BEERS, MR. O. TERBLANCE, MR. D.N. SMIT, AND A MR. GROBLER.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS. THE UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH WILL RESUME OPERATIONS ON AUGUST 11 AND THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE IS SCHEDULED TO REOPEN AUGUST 16. FORT HARE STUDENTS TO BE READMITTED UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS INCLUDING A BAN OF MASS MEETINGS. FINANCIAL PENALTIES, AND ACCEPTANCE OF POLICE ON CAMPUS. DUE TO BURNED OUT ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES. THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND REPORTED WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR EXCEPT FOR WITZIESHOEK THEOLOGICAL COLEGE AND INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, SCHOOLS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR03302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-0873
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760718/aaaaapei.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 3225
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <15 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOWETO AFTERMATH: SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF ARSON
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006